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United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law

Report of the Sixth Committee

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I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law" was included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly pursuant to Assembly resolution 64/113 of 16 December 2009.

2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2010, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Sixth Committee.

3. The Sixth Committee considered the item at its 18th, 27th and 28th meetings, on 22 October and on 5 and 11 November 2010. The views of the representatives who spoke during the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.6/65/SR.18, 27 and 28).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/65/514).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.6/65/L.16

5. At the 27th meeting, on 5 November, the representative of Ghana, on behalf of the Bureau, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law" (A/C.6/65/L.16), and orally revised it as follows:

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(a) Operative paragraph 2, which read:

"2. *Also authorizes* the Secretary-General to award a minimum of one scholarship in 2011 under the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea, subject to the availability of new voluntary contributions made specifically for this fellowship",

was replaced by:

"2. *Also authorizes* the Secretary-General to award a minimum of one scholarship in 2011 under the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea, subject to the availability of voluntary contributions made for this fellowship, and in this regard calls upon States, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, donor agencies, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make voluntary contributions to its trust fund";

(b) In operative paragraph 6, the final phrase "taking into account paragraph 65 of his report" was deleted.

6. At its 28th meeting, on 11 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.6/65/L.16, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 8).

7. At the same meeting, the representative of Belarus made a statement (see A/C.6/65/SR.28).

III. Recommendation of the Sixth Committee

8. The Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2099 (XX) of 20 December 1965, in which it established the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law to contribute towards a better knowledge of international law as a means of strengthening international peace and security and promoting friendly relations and cooperation among States,

Reaffirming that the Programme of Assistance is a core activity of the United Nations and that it has provided the foundation for the efforts of the United Nations to promote a better knowledge of international law for nearly half a century,

Reaffirming also that the increasing demand for international law training and dissemination activities creates new challenges for the Programme of Assistance,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Assistance[1] and the views of the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance, which are contained in that report,

Noting with concern the reduction in the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 for fellowships for the benefit of developing countries indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, notwithstanding its resolution 64/113 of 16 December 2009,

Considering that international law should occupy an appropriate place in the teaching of legal disciplines at all universities,

Convinced that States, international and regional organizations, universities and institutions should be encouraged to give further support to the Programme of Assistance and to increase their activities to promote the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law, in particular those activities which are of special benefit to persons from developing countries,

Reaffirming that in the conduct of the Programme of Assistance it would be desirable to use as far as possible the resources and facilities made available by Member States, international and regional organizations, universities, institutions and others,

Reaffirming also the hope that, in appointing lecturers for the seminars to be held within the framework of the fellowship programmes in international law, account would be taken of the need to secure the representation of major legal systems and balance among various geographical regions,

[1] A/65/514.

1. *Reiterates* its authorization for the Secretary-General to carry out, in 2011, the activities specified in the report he submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session,[2] in accordance with the guidelines and recommendations contained therein, including the provision of:

(a) A number of fellowships, to be determined in the light of the overall resources for the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law and to be awarded to qualified candidates from developing countries, to attend the International Law Fellowship Programme in The Hague in 2011;

(b) A number of fellowships, to be determined in the light of the overall resources for the Programme of Assistance and to be awarded to qualified candidates from developing countries, to attend regional courses in international law in 2011;

and to finance the above activities from provisions in the regular budget, when appropriate, as well as from voluntary financial contributions for these fellowships, which would be received as a result of the requests set out in paragraphs 18 to 20 below;

2. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to award a minimum of one scholarship in 2011 under the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea, subject to the availability of voluntary contributions made for this fellowship, and in this regard calls upon States, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, donor agencies, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make voluntary contributions to its trust fund;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the efforts to strengthen, expand and enhance the international law training and dissemination activities within the framework of the Programme of Assistance in 2010;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider admitting, for participation in the various components of the Programme of Assistance, candidates from countries willing to bear the entire cost of such participation;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide to the programme budget the necessary resources for the Programme of Assistance to ensure the continued effectiveness of the Programme in 2011, in accordance with resolution 64/113;

6. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide to the programme budget for the next and future bienniums the necessary resources for the Programme of Assistance to ensure the continued effectiveness and further development of the Programme, in particular the organization of regional courses in international law on a regular basis and the viability of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law;

7. *Recognizes* the importance of the United Nations legal publications prepared by the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, and strongly encourages their continued publication;

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[2] A/64/495.

8. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by the Office of Legal Affairs to bring up to date the United Nations legal publications, and, in particular, commends the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs for its desktop publishing initiative, which has greatly enhanced the timely issuance of its legal publications;

9. *Encourages* the Office of Legal Affairs to continue to maintain and expand its websites listed in annex I to the report of the Secretary-General[1] as an invaluable tool for the dissemination of international law materials as well as for advanced legal research;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law as a major contribution to the teaching and dissemination of international law around the world, and urges States to make voluntary contributions to enable the Codification Division to continue and further develop the Library;

11. *Encourages* the use of interns and research assistants for the preparation of materials for the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law;

12. *Welcomes* the training and technical assistance activities in international law undertaken by the Office of Legal Affairs within the framework of the Programme of Assistance, as described in the report of the Secretary-General, and encourages the continuation of such activities within available resources;

13. *Commends* the Codification Division for the cost-saving measures undertaken with regard to the International Law Fellowship Programme to maintain the number of fellowships available for this comprehensive international law training programme;

14. *Expresses its appreciation* to The Hague Academy of International Law for the valuable contribution it continues to make to the Programme of Assistance, which has enabled candidates under the International Law Fellowship Programme to attend and participate in the Fellowship Programme in conjunction with the Academy courses;

15. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions of The Hague Academy to the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law, and calls upon Member States and interested organizations to give favourable consideration to the appeal of the Academy for a continuation of support and a possible increase in their financial contributions, to enable the Academy to carry out its activities, particularly those relating to the summer courses, regional courses and programmes of the Centre for Studies and Research in International Law and International Relations;

16. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Codification Division to revitalize and conduct regional courses in international law as an important training activity;

17. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Republic of Korea and Ethiopia for hosting regional courses in international law in Seoul in 2010 and in Addis Ababa in 2011;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to publicize the Programme of Assistance and periodically to invite Member States, universities, philanthropic foundations and other interested national and international institutions and organizations, as well as individuals, to make voluntary contributions towards the

financing of the Programme or otherwise to assist in its implementation and possible expansion;

19. *Reiterates its request* to Member States and interested organizations, institutions and individuals to make voluntary contributions, inter alia, for the International Law Fellowship Programme and the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, and expresses its appreciation to those Member States, institutions and individuals that have made voluntary contributions for this purpose;

20. *Urges*, in particular, all Governments to make voluntary contributions for the regional courses in international law organized by the Codification Division as an important complement to the International Law Fellowship Programme, thus alleviating the burden on prospective host countries and making it possible to conduct the regional courses on a regular basis;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly, at its sixty-sixth session, on the implementation of the Programme of Assistance during 2011 and to include in his report information on the request contained in paragraph 5 above;

22. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, following consultations with the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance, to submit recommendations regarding the execution of the Programme of Assistance in subsequent years;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session the item entitled "United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law".